

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293272 TOSEC 310406

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FOR THE SECRETARY ONLY FROM ROBINSON AND SONNENFELDT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR; FR; US

SUBJECT: FRENCH NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY

REFS: (A) STATE 271286; (B) TOSEC 310138

1. ON NOVEMBER 29, YOU RECEIVED A LETTER FROM DE GUIRINGAUD (TRANSLATION BELOW) WHICH APPEARS TO BE AN ANSWER TO YOUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 4 (REF A) IN WHICH YOU NOTED THE PARALLELISM OF RECENT U.S. AND FRENCH NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENTS AND SUGGESTED FURTHER EXPLORATION OF VIEWS IN A SECURE AND VALID CHANNEL. HIS RESPONSE IS CAUTIOUS, AS THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR SOMETIME AGO TOLD HAL SONNENFELDT IT WOULD BE, SINCE THE FRENCH ARE STILL IN THE MIDST OF POLICY REVIEW.

2. THERE IS A SLIGHT AMBIGUITY IN THAT THE LETTER SAYS "YOU PROPOSE TO ME TODAY THAT WE CARRY OUR DISCUSSIONS ON
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THIS SUBJECT FURTHER. . ." THIS INSPIRED SOME CONCERN THAT

DE GUIRINGAUD WAS RESPONDING TO YOUR SECOND LETTER OF NOVEMBER 27 (REF B) IN WHICH YOU PROPOSED A MEETING IN BRUSSELS. GIVEN THE DATE OF DE GUIRINGAUD'S LETTER (NOVEMBER 23) AND FRENCH EMBASSY'S EXPLANATION THAT DELIVERY TO THE DEPARTMENT WAS DELAYED BY SEVERAL DAYS, WE RULE OUT THIS POSSIBILITY.

3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR A MEETING BETWEEN YOU AND DE GUIRINGAUD IN BRUSSELS ARE IN TRAIN. DESPITE DE GUIRINGAUD'S UNDERSTANDABLE CAUTION, SUCH A MEETING SHOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FRANK DISCUSSION.

4. BEGIN TEXT OF INFORMAL TRANSLATION: DEAR HENRY: AS YOU HAVE WELL NOTED, OUR STATEMENT OF 11 OCTOBER TRACING THE MAJOR LINES OF OUR NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY DEMONSTRATES A CERTAIN PARALLELISM WITH YOUR VIEWS AS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT FORD EVEN IF, ON CERTAIN POINTS, OUR POSITIONS DO NOT ENTIRELY COINCIDE. YOU PROPOSE TO ME TODAY THAT WE CARRY OUT DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT FURTHER AND I AM, CERTAINLY, FAVORABLE IN PRINCIPLE TO SUCH CONSULTATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME I MUST TELL YOU THAT WE HAVE NOT COMPLETED THE REVIEW BEGUN SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AND, INCIDENTALLY, I UNDERSTAND FROM THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE AMERICAN DELEGATION AT THE RECENT LONDON MEETING OF NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS THAT IT IS THE SAME FOR YOU.

5. I THINK, THEREFORE, THAT IN ORDER THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BE TRULY PROFITABLE, IT WOULD BE BETTER WERE WE BOTH TO FIRST PURSUE FURTHER OUR RESPECTIVE STUDIES. IT IS TO THIS TASK THAT WE ARE NOW DEVOTING OUR ATTENTIONS.

6. BE ASSURED, DEAR HENRY, OF MY MOST CORDIAL SENTIMENTS. LOUIS. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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